

Ex-Spy Says Anti-Reds Aid Soviet Aims in U.S.

By Rasa Gustaitis
Staff Reporter

A former Soviet spy in Czechoslovakia believes that anti-Communist groups spreading confusion in the United States are more valuable to the U.S.S.R. than bona fide Reds seeking secrets.

Anatoli Granovsky, 39, who was a captain of political intelligence in the Ministry of State Security of the Soviet Union in 1945 and 1946 and earlier had been a member of the Soviet Secret Police (NKVD) said in an interview here:

"The Soviet Communists would sacrifice a thousand American Communists to save the John Birch Society, for instance. I don't mean the Birch Society is Communist-infiltrated. It doesn't have to be. By discrediting prominent Americans, it confuses the population about whom to trust.

"In specializing Czechoslovakia (which fell to the Communists in 1948) we did everything to divide the armed forces then trained by the British and the Americans.

"In 1941 there was very lit-

tle armed forces resistance because the American-trained tank units and the British-trained air force had been replaced by Communist-trained men."

This objective was accomplished by spreading rumors about officers until they were so thoroughly discredited their men would not obey them and they had to be removed, Granovsky explained.

The Soviets also used tactics to divide Protestants and Catholics, Czechs, Sudeten-Germans and Slovaks, and to discredit businessmen, he said.

Czechoslovakia was a highly developed country, the only one in Eastern Europe to maintain a democratic form

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of government between the two World Wars, and had a high standard of living.

"Not just backward countries, but any community or country can thus be destroyed," declared the former NKVD man.

Therefore fanning of religious and racial conflict, attempts to discredit the Central Intelligence Agency and to promote rivalries among the branches of the armed forces aid the Communist cause, Granovsky said. He added:

"If the time and energy of decision-makers is absorbed by armed services squabbling, their mobility and strength is drained and there is no need for Soviet agents to influence American generals."

Granovsky also believes that the House Un-American Activities Committee should be abolished. "Counter-intelligence work cannot be done by semi-amateurs," he declared.

Son of a Soviet Central Executive Committee member who was purged, the former spy fled to Sweden in 1946 and later made his way to Brazil where he wrote a book, "All Pity Choked," about his experiences. It was published in London in 1955.

He has wandered around in the United States for two years, doing odd jobs in various cities. He said he came to Washington recently, hoping to cure a peptic ulcer and find work.

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